

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus which is configured for connection ~~connected~~ to a server along with other information processing apparatuses through a network and which is supplied with a shared virtual space wherein avatars representing users remain active, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a registering unit configured to register ~~means for registering~~ any of said avatars as an object to be filtered out in a predetermined storage area;

a receiving unit configured to receive data corresponding to said shared virtual space from said server;

a determining unit configured to determine whether said received data includes data representative of any avatar as an object to be filtered out;

a filtering unit configured to delete the data to be filtered out from said received data ~~means for filtering out data on the avatar registered by said registering means, said data having been transmitted from said server; and~~

a processing unit configured to process ~~processing means for processing~~ said shared virtual space based on the data left intact following the filtering by said filtering unit ~~means~~.

Clam 2 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a requesting mechanism configured to request ~~means for requesting~~ any of said other information processing apparatuses to register the avatar representing the requesting user as an object to be filtered out;

wherein said registering mechanism ~~means~~, in response to the request from the other information processing apparatus, registers the avatar representing the requesting user as an object to be filtered out.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for use with an information processing apparatus which is configured for connection ~~connected~~ to a server along with other information processing apparatuses through a network and which is supplied with a shared virtual space wherein avatars representing users remain active, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

registering any of said avatars as an object to be filtered out;

receiving data corresponding to said shared virtual space sent from said server;

determining whether said received data includes data representative of any avatar as an object to be filtered out;

filtering out data on the avatar registered in said registering step, said data having been transmitted from said server; and

processing said shared virtual space based on the data left intact following the filtering in said filtering step.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A storage medium which stores a computer-readable program for use by an information processing apparatus which is configured for connection ~~connected~~ to a server along with other information processing apparatuses through a network and which is supplied with a shared virtual space wherein avatars representing users remain active, the program comprising the steps of:

registering any of said avatars as an object to be filtered out;

receiving data corresponding to said shared virtual space sent from said server;

determining whether said received data includes data representative of any avatar as an object to be filtered out;

filtering out data on the avatar registered in said registering step, said data having been transmitted from said server; and

processing said shared virtual space based on the data left intact following the filtering in said filtering step.